

**REMARKS**

By this amendment, claims 1-39 are pending, in which claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 21, 29, 30 and 39 are currently amended.

The final Office Action mailed October 6, 2004 rejected claims 1-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by *Zheng et al.* (US 5,392,280).

In the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 29. Independent claims 1 and 29 now recite "retrieving a **search order table specifying order for servicing of *M* queues**, the search order table having a plurality of table entries corresponding to the *M* queues that selectively store the packets, **the table entries storing values that specify relative positions of the *M* queues** and that are selected based upon a transmission constraint of the communication system." Amended independent claim 11 recites "a memory storing a **search order table specifying order for servicing of the *M* queues**, the search order table having a plurality of table entries corresponding to the *M* queues, **the table entries storing values that specify relative positions of the *M* queues for non-sequential servicing** and that are selected based upon a transmission constraint of the communication system." Independent claim 21 now recites "a memory storing a search order table having a plurality of table entries, **the table entries storing values that specify relative positions of the plurality of queues for non-sequential servicing of the queues** in accordance with a transmission constraint, wherein the number of queues is *M*." Claim 39 recites "scheduling transmission of the packets stored in a plurality of queues based upon a **search order table specifying order for non-sequential servicing of the queues** corresponding respectively to a plurality of nodes, wherein the search order table has a plurality of table entries corresponding to the queues, **the table entries storing values that specify relative positions of the queues according to a transmission constraint relating to the nodes.**"

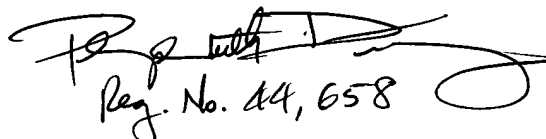
The above features are absent from the applied reference of *Zheng et al.* Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is untenable. Applicants respectfully request the indication that independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 29 are allowable.

Because claims 2-10, 12-20, 22-28, and 30-38 depend correspondingly from independent claims 1, 11, 21, and 29, they are also in condition for allowance for at least the reasons for the allowability of these independent claims. Furthermore, the dependent claims are also separately patentable on their own merits. For example, amended dependent claim 2 recites "wherein **the M queues correspond to different transmission regions**, and the **transmission constraint** in the retrieving step **specifies that the packets are to be transmitted to the transmission regions that are non-interfering**, the communication system being **a satellite communication system**." Applicants respectfully maintain that the Examiner's conclusion that general disclosure of "digital communication system" does not suggest or otherwise teach the specific environment of a satellite communication system.

Moreover, Applicants assert that the arguments proffered in Applicants' prior Responses for the allowability of the pending claims 1-39 are still applicable.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the rejection of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (301) 601-7252 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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